

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 12 and 16-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 13-15 are currently pending in this case. Early issuance of pending claims 1-11 and 13-15 is respectfully requested.

Allowance of Claims

The undersigned appreciates the Examiner's indication that the subject matter within claims 6, 12, and 14 are deemed allowable. Specifically, the Examiner indicated the allowable features of claim 6 calls for not only a pull-up transistor, but also a pull-up transistor with a source-to-drain current path coupled between the power supply voltage and one of the pair of inputs. Accordingly, as requested by the Examiner, the subject matter from claim 6 has been inserted into claim 1. Therefore, Applicant asserts that claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are now allowable.

As to the allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 14, Applicant has inserted verbatim the language from claim 12 into claim 7. Therefore, Applicant asserts that claim 7 and claims dependent therefrom are now allowable.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's recognition of the patentable subject matter that is now recited in amended claims 1 and 7.

Section 102/103 Rejections

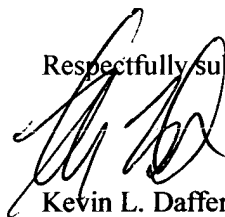
Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,929,664 to Allevan (hereinafter "Allevan"). In response thereto, non-rejected claims 6 and 12, noted as containing allowable subject matter, have been inserted into independent claims 1 and 7. Claims 16-19 have been canceled rendering rejection thereto moot. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the remaining pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the final Office Action mailed April 8, 2003. In view of the remarks traversing rejections therein, Applicants assert that pending claims 1-11 and 13-15 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5298-07400.

Respectfully submitted,



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